The Guiding Head of the Zion Colony Explains Why **Scientists** Are All Wrong in Their Ideas of Geography

NE thousand children in the schools of Zion, Ill., are being taught in their geography classes that the earth is flat.

and

It is so ordered by Wilbur Glenn Voliva (successor of the Prophet Dowie), who is spiritual and temporal boss of Zion, and incidentally superintendent of the town's

The teaching, prescribed by him, is that the earth is circular, like a pancake, the North Pole marking its centre. There is no South Pole. All around the edge of the terrestrial disk is a wall of ice-a turnedup rim, so to speak, put there for the purers from falling off into the void of space.

This earth-disk on which we dwell is stationary and immovable. The theory that the earth travels around the sun is a wild notion propagated by astronomers

and other dreamers.
Unlike a pancake, the earth-disk is very thick in proportion to its diameter. We cannot know, of course, how thick it is, because we have never bored down into it much beyond a-mile. The increase of temperature with depth, however, proves that it must be very hot down below; and further evidence of a really tremendous

heat is given by frequent outpourings of

molten rocks from volcanees.

Far beneath us, then, is what Mr. Voliva calls the Hot Place. Folks who do not agree with his teachings are liable to find their way thither, later on. But the Hot Place is of very essential importance to us while we are pursuing our present-day existence, because it maintains the fires of the sun.

This seems rather surprising, but is easily explained. The sun, which circles every twenty-four hours around the earth (as anybody can see for himself), passes during each night through a large hole or tunnel that extends horizontally clear through the terrestrial disk, down below

Deluded astronemers declare that the solar orb is more than a million times as big as the earth. Plain foolishness. As a matter of fact it is only thirty-two miles in diameter. And, instead of being 93,000,000 miles off, its distance from us is slightly less than that which separates New York from San Francisco-2,700 miles, to be

exact-according to Mr. Voliva. It is obvious that a sun of that size would soon burn out unless its fires were constantly resupplied; and it is for that very purpose that, our celestial luminary makes a nightly journey through the aforementioned tunnel, which passes through the Hot Place. Thus recruited every twenty-four hours its blazes continue undimmed.

A matter of every-day observation is the redness of the sun when it rises or sets. This phenomenon is attributable to the fact that at such times the solar orb, ascending above or descending below the edge of the earth-disk, reflects the mighty fires that continually emerge from the east and west ends of the great tunnel.

The sun is not so much bigger than the moon as it looks. The moon is farther off, and, the radius of its revolution being greater, it passes beneath the earth-disk, avoiding the tunnel that penetrates the

While the earth remains stationary (being the centre of creation), everything else moves around it. The firmament of stars is a revolving sphere. If we watch

we can see it go around. The planets are wandering stars: all the other stars are permanently set and fixed





W. Glenn. Voliva, Who Is the Master Mind of the Late Dowie's Zion City Colony.

in the firmament. Sun and moon are properly to be regarded as the greatest of the planets. Compared with them, the stars are insignificant orbs in point of sizemere lanterns hung in the sky.

The moon is the greatest light-giver. next to the sun. It is self-iuminous-not a mere reflector of the sun's rays, but a light. All the lights in the sky are put there solely to illuminate the earth, to divide day from night, and to serve as signs for years and seasons.

The sun does not shed light and heat in all directions, wasting its energy upon the void of space. It throws all of its rays toward the earth, like a lamp with a reflector behind it.

The heavens and the earth were created first, and the lights afterward. The lights, being brought into being merely for the use of the earth, are greatly inferior to the latter in size.

"To suppose that the sun is bigger than the earth is an absurdity," says Mr. Voliva. "A small lamp or stove will light or heat a large room. The idea of making a light so enormously larger than the object to be lighted, and then placing it at an unthinkable distance from that object is

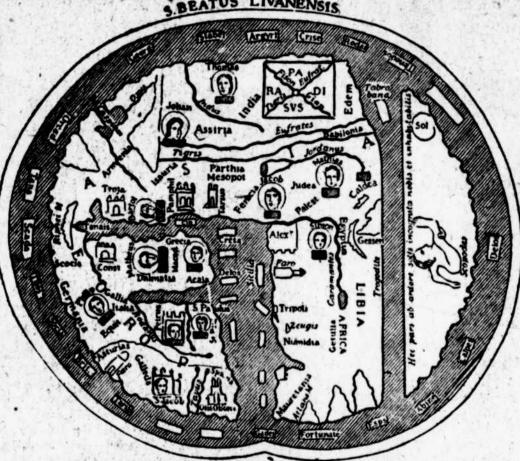
preposterous." Scripture testimony regarding the movements of the sun and moon is exported by the evidence of vision. All except the blind can see the sun and moon move. Bible astronomy, says Mr. Voliva, teaches the immobility of the earth and the movement of the lights above us, and is the only astronomy a Christian should believe.

Modern astronomy," says Mr. Voliva, "Is infidel science." So much for the general arrangement of the Cosmos. Now let us go back to the

flat earth and see how Mr. Voliva proves his pancake proposition. "The habitable world of dry land." he says, "stands out of the waters of the

'mighty deep,' whose circumferential boundary is a wall of ice." Start from any geographical point-in America, Europe, Asia, wherever you please-and travel directly south. Keep

Was a Circle of Metal and There Were Doors in the Heaven Where Celestial Workers Poured Rain and Blew the Winds. In the Centre of the Earth Was a Dark Pit, Hades, Where the Wicked Went After Death. REATUS LIVANENS



Another Map of the Earth Shown as a Flat Surface and Locating All of the Important Points of Geography Known in the Year 1776, When the Map Was Made.

on going south, and eventually you reach mony of all Antarctic voyagers proves it.

Teachers of science (falsely so called) declare that the sphericity of the earth is demonstrated by the fact that ships have sailed around it.

What-does that amount to? One can circumnavigate Manhattan Island. Is it therefore a sphere?

The assertion that ships have sailed around the world on one course, east or west, and come back to the place they started from, i. untrue. Whole continents are in the way. The ships would have had

to sail thousands of miles over dry land. The earth can be circumnavigated on one course only—through the waters of the great southern ocean, which occury all of the outer part of the disk, terminated by the surrounding ice wall. Such an expedition, however, would be highly perilous, owing to icebergs (floating fragments of the ice wall) and darkness that lasts for

Such a voyage would not prove the earth to be a sphere. The ship would merely circle a plane.

Obviously, a flat disk can be circumnavigated. An east or west course pur-sued on a flat circle will bring the traveler back to his starting point.

If a donkey be tied to a stake on a

flat common he walks around the stake in pursuit of grass. But the path he travels is a circle; it has no relation to a sphere. Another proof of the earth's sphericity offered by teachers of so-called science is that a ship sailing into the distance disappears gradually below the horizon, first the

hull and then the masts, as if sinking bethat ice wall. The wall is there. Testi. hind a hill of water. Mr. Voliva says that this is purely an optical illusion.

Look at the horizon from the seashore. It is a perfectly straight line, not an arched curve, as it would be if the earth were spherical.

Water, in a cup, in a wash-basin, in a lake or in an ocean is flat, whether for a distance of one foot or for 1,000 miles. Astronomers ought surely to know that water is level.

In cutting canals no allowance is made for convexity of the earth. The engineers who dug the Suez ditch. 100 miles long. made no such allowance. There are no locks on the Grand Canal in China, which is more than 700 miles in length. It runs through flat country. Locks are used for the Panama Canal only because there are land elevations to be crossed, with a lake above the level of the sea. The Caribbean and Pacific ends of that canal are on the

same plane, which is sea-level. What does the earth look it's when one goes up in a balloon? Seen from a height of miles, with a view extending over a vast area, it would offer to the eye at least a suggestion of the globular, if it were really a sphere. But ask any balloonist, and he will tell you that the landscape, thus viewed, has actually a dished effect, the horizon on all sides seeming to rise with the balloon.

If you will look up the words "sun." 'moon," "stars," "waters," etc., in a Bible concordance, and then refer to the passages indicated, you will be surprised to find how much of astronomy there is in Holy Writ.



One of Voliva's Missions Workers Selling Copies of is "Leaves of Healing."

A familiar passage is that in och Joshua commands the sun to stan ill. and it obeys him. Certainly it co not have stood still if the earth r ved

around it. If the earth were (as the astro. ers assert) a globe flying through spac rate of 100 miles in five seconds ; ne the waters of the lakes and seas con of be kept on its surface.

The astronomers, for evidence he correctness of their theories, point he accuracy with which they are able redict eclipses. It is no proof. Ancie ar gazers, who believed the earth to at could and did predict eclipses 600 y/ it advance. Eclipses are not calcui it connection with the earth's shape.

Up to the sixteenth century it cepted as fact that the earth was movable centre of the universe, a the sun, moon and stars revolved it. Then Copernicus promuleated ! ous theory that the earth and its planets revolved about the sun. fered proof of it; but it was reje contrary to Scripture; Copernicus clared to be an atheist and infidunder pressure, practically recan doctrine. Later on, it will be reme Galileo, summoned before the inc escaped death only by confessing t

nomical ideas to be wrong. In the early medieval cosmogra-earth was a thick circular disk in tre of a sea limitless in all direction tween its upper and lower surfathe dead. Around the edge was a

8 Smaller Than the Earth, Which Stands Still and the Sun Revolves Around It. While the Moon Makes Its Own Light

lofty mountains, to which was fitted (by a water-tight joint, to prevent water from invading the cavern) a metal vault of hem-

erical shape—the sky—called the nament" because it was supposed to be aid and substantial structure, beneath h were the sun, moon and stars.

ove this sky-vault were waters, and were windows in it which were by celestial beings to let down the Thus it will be seen that the earth the Dark Ages, with its overing vault of metal, was entirely surded by water. There were waters beeath it, around it and above it.

xamination of the literature of this in eresting subject makes it manifest that Wilbur Glenn Voliva has derived many of bis ideas from an authority named Gilbert Johnson, who published a little book about it balf a century ago.

Johnson (like Voliva) asserts the North Pole to be the centre of the earth-disk. "As we stand and look north," he says, "we are looking toward China. The shortest path by which to reach China is by way of the North Pole-going north to the centre, that is to say, and then south toward the opposite edge of the earth. But the centre is so far away from the sun that it is very cold there; so, for greater convenience, we take a longer route."

Voliva's idea of the ice rim of the earthdisk is not original either; he gets it from another and earlier authority. Johnson does not mention it. He writes: "At the extreme south we come to where earth and sky join together like the lid and rim of a watch. The air between the face of the earth and the sky (helped perhaps by volcanic rases) holds the earth affoat in space. The sun, moon and stars are between the face of the earth and the sky. The, seas, which are level, all join to-

From what has gone before it will be nderstood that, according to the Voliva-Johnson conception, all paths pointing buth lead to the rim of the earth-disk. It one were at the North Pole one might tart in any direction and, if he kept on ong enough in a straight line, would fetch

up at the earth's rim. According to that conception the place of the South Pole is taken by the rim which is the outermost circumference of the pancake-like earth. That rim hems in waters of the great southern ocean, which occupies all the outer portion of the earth-platter the continents of land being

n the middle. The diameter of the earth-platter (says obnson) is 28,000 miles. Thus, starting the centre, or North Pole, and going traight in any direction, one would have Cravel 14.000 miles before reaching the

The circumference of the earth in our titude is 24,000 miles. At the Equator half way to the rim) it is 42,000 miles. At he southern limit (outermost edge) it is

5,000 miles. If we were at the centre of the earth's ce (the North Pole), the North Star e star) would be directly overhead, the sun, moon and movable stars

The sun (according to Johnson) does not beneath the earth when it sets. It circles around, always at the same disk. The phenomena of rising and set-

Special interest attaches to the Johnsonian theories because of the evident fact that Voltva's ideas are derived from him, with modifications.

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